

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 SP-02 INR-10 INRE-00
IO-13 PM-05 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 NEAE-00 /056 W
-----006292 271923Z /47

O R 271732Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7386
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 1709

E.O. 11652: SGDS-1, 4
TAGS: SOPN
SUBJECT: ALLEGATION THE USG PROMOTED SARKIS TO ANNOUNCE ADF
BAN ON MILITARY SUPPLIES TO LEBANON

REF: DAMASCUS 1689

1. WE ASKED HAMUD SHOULFI, SYRIA'S AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE TO THE UN, MARCH 27, ABOUT SYRIA'S APPARENT TURN AROUND ON THE QUESTION OF FOREIGN SUPPLIES AND FORCES ENTERING LEBANON. SHOULFI SAID THAT HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT THE PRESIDENT'S POSITION WAS. NOTED, HOWEVER, HE HAD BEEN TOLD BY SYRIAN INTELLIGENCE PERSONNEL OVER WEEKEND THAT THE ADF WAS NOT REPEAT NOT AUTHORIZED TO MAKE ANY STATEMENT ABOUT CURTAILMENT OF SUPPLIES
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AND FORCES FOR THE PALESTINIANS.
SHOULFI SAID HIS SOURCES
MAINTAIN THE UNITED STATES "PUT SARKIS
UP TO MAKING HIS
ADF STATEMENT AND THAT THIS WAS A PART OF THE US EFFORT TO
UNDERMINE SYRIA AND ITS REGIME."

2. POLOFF REMONSTRATED WITH SHOEFI NOTING THAT WE HAD BEEN PERFECTLY FRANK WITH FONMIN KHADDAM AS TO OUR POSITION ON FOREIGN FORCES INTERVENING IN LEBANON AND THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO CONFUSION AT HIGHER LEVELS IN THE SYRIAN GOVERNMENT AS TO WHAT WE HAVE BEEN DOING. SHOEFI SAID HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE USG HAD ACTED ABOVE BOARD BUT WAS SIMPLY REPORTING THE STORY GOING AROUND IN INTELLIGENCE CIRCLES AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMUNITY IN SYRIA.

3. COMMENT: POSSIBILITY THAT SARKIS, BOUTROS, OR ADF COMMANDER KHATIB AUTHORIZED MARCH 24 STATEMENT WITHOUT PRIOR COORDINATION WITH DAMASCUS IS ON ITS FACE ABSURD. HOWEVER, THIS IS ONLY EXPLANATION WE HAVE YET HEARD FOR WHAT OTHERWISE MUST BE READ AS AN INEXPLICABLE FLIP FLOP IN SYRIAN POLICY STATEMENTS.
MURPHY

NOTE BY OC/T: DISTRIBUTION COORDINATED WITH MR. HART, S/S-O.

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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